

SERMON NOTES

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GROWING THROUGH CONFLICT Studies in the Life of David

I SAMUEL 18 - "Conflict Among Kings"

INTRODUCTION:

Did you know that God never promised that life would be fair?

Injustices are one of the hardest things to take.

David knew what it was to suffer injustices to be hated for no reason, to be hunted like a common criminal when he had done nothing wrong!

As a matter of fact he had done what was right!

In today's study we will see how David went from being Saul's favorite to being Saul's foe.

1. David Saul's favorite (vs. 1-5)
2. David Saul's foe (vs. 6-16)

In verse 7 we find the big test.

Why is it a big test?

Because for David this was a greater test than facing Goliath!

How did Saul react to David's popularity?

1. Anger (vs. 8)

The Hebrew, "furious", not, "burn",

Why?

Saul was under pressure! - -- Us !
His pride was hurt and he had lost popularity!

Anger is the wrong response!

"Don't let the sun go down" (Eph 4:29-32)

2. Jealousy (vs. 8b)

"The refrain of women's ode opened Saul's soul to the poisonous dart of jealousy".

F.B. Meyer

Why was Saul jealous of David?

Saul saw the kingdom as belonging to himself and not God.

As a result, Saul feared the people more than God!

He was more concerned about his reputation than his obedience to God!

So with us to!

He wanted his will not God's!

3. Saul's heart was filled with envy (vs. 19)

Many Christians are like that person who, one day, looked extremely sad. One who knew him well said "Either some great evil has happened to him, or some great good has come to another."

Example: Joseph's brothers & Jesus!

Prov 14:30

30. A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.

It will destroy!

Example: Saul and his family!

What should we do?

Rom 13:12-14

12. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armor of light.

13. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

14. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.

"Extinguish it in a sea of prayer".

F.B. Meyer

On envy Alexander Maclaren said, "Let us suppress its beginning! A tiger pup can be held and its claws cut, but a full-grown tiger cannot".

4. He Raved (vs. 10)

An evil spirit from God?

Can a Christian be possessed ?

NO!

5. He tried to kill David (vs. 11)

Us to!

6. He demoted him (vs. 13) "put him down"

7. He practiced manipulation (vs. 17-30)

Saul played the hypocrite! He was dishonest!

Later even Saul's repentance was a form of manipulation.

It wasn't true repentance!

What was the result in Saul's life?

Fear! (vs. 12, 15, 29)

Remember Saul began so well!

How did David respond to Saul's anger, jealousy, envy and manipulation?

1. He didn't
2. Humility (vs. 18)

"He knew the kingdom was God's"

He never lifted his hand against Saul!

3. He kept doing what was right!

Notice three things the text says:

David behaved himself wisely (vs. 5, 14, 30)

What does that mean?

He kept doing what was right!

David kept walking with God! Obeying!

Submitting all his problems, and pain to the Lord in Prayer.

Trusting God that in His time He would work out His will.

How did David do it?

The Holy Spirit!

The Spirit of God was upon him.

Notice the results:

1. His life commended itself to men (vs. 5)
*Our life is like an open book! "Be thou an example".
2. The Lord was with him and his foes feared him (vs.14-15)

3. His name became precious (vs. 30)

For us we bear the name of "Jesus"

Notice the contrast between Saul and David:

Saul

Hate

Folly

The Lord departs

David

Love

Wisdom

The Lord is with him